

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

--Thermal indicators of this invention are configured to permit their placement within a portion of the heat exchanger adjacent the hot or cold side fluid or gas inlet. In an example embodiment, thermal indicators of this invention are used to determine whether the fluid or gas entering the hot side gas inlet is provided at temperatures in excess of the heat exchanger design. It is, however, to be understood that thermal indicators of this invention can be placed adjacent any fluid or gas entry or outlet to provide a tell tale sign of whether the fluid or gas that has entered or exited the heat exchanger was within the design criteria. The thermal indicator can be connected within the heat exchanger so that either a portion of or the entire indicator is placed into contact with the entering hot side fluid or gas inlet stream. In an example embodiment, the thermal indicator is provided as an element that is made from a material that itself is designed to melt or otherwise undergo an irreversible mechanical/physical change when subjected to a predetermined temperature. Ideally, the material that is used to form thermal indicators of this invention have a sufficient mechanical strength at the heat exchanger design temperatures so that the thermal indicator can be retained within the heat

exchanger without changing form, becoming damaged, or otherwise becoming unable to provide an indication of excessive thermal energy.--